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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 7 Sept. 1950

SUBJECT 1. Airfields, Chuhsien and Hankow
25X1 2. Soviet Tank Instructors, Hankow

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1. Work has been completed on a 1,500-meter (1,640 yards) airstrip at Chuhsien,* on or near the site of a former Nationalist airstrip. All construction is stone and no concrete was used; the strip is surrounded by earth walls and barbed wire. Buildings and hangars are also completed. The work required 2,000 to 10,000 men during the past six months; the Communists conscripted former village and hsien heads and local gentry for labor. The field has no electricity or lighting; night landings are not practicable.
2. The Hankow International Race Course area has been restricted and guarded by a strict military cordon one li from its boundary since the Communists began to convert the course to an airfield in April 1950. No planes have been observed landing or taking off.**
3. Sixteen Soviet advisers are staying in Hankow with the purpose of teaching Communist soldiers to operate armored cars and tanks. The Soviets are staying at the Ching Ien (京蓮) Hotel.***

25X1

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